

RATS AND MICE--THE WORLD'S WORST PESTS.

The Case Against Rats and Mice.

Rats and mice are among the worst animal pests in the world, according to biologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

From their home among filth they visit dwellings and storerooms to pollute and destroy human food.

The rat carries bubonic plague and many other diseases fatal to man and has no doubt been responsible for more untimely deaths among human beings than all wars of history.

In the United States rats and mice destroy each year in homes, in factories, stores, and warehouses, in cars and on ships, crops, poultry, and other property valued at more than \$200,000,000--an amount equivalent to the gross earnings of an army of 200,000 men.

Grain, eaten and wasted by rats and mice on many farms, would pay all the farmer's taxes.

Rats and mice breed from 6 to 10 times a year, producing their destructive kind at an alarming rate.

They are parasites without a single redeeming characteristic.

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Part II.

HOW STATES, COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS CAN
HELP ELIMINATE RATS AND MICE.--MEAS-
URES SUGGESTED BY BIOLOGISTS OF U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

By requiring that all new buildings, wharves, and other structures be rat proof; that existing buildings of rat-proof construction be further protected by having basement windows and drains covered with screens, gratings, etc.; and that existing buildings that are not rat proof be made so by remodelling.

By constructing sewers and drains so that they will not provide entrance and retreat for rats.

By insisting on greater cleanliness about markets, stores, and generally throughout cities, villages, and the country districts.

By threshing and marketing grain early so that stacks will not furnish harboring places and food for rats.

By removing piles of straw, trash, and lumber which harbor rats in fields and vacant lots.

By protecting the hawks, owls, and other natural enemies of rats which are not so destructive to poultry as rats themselves.

By keeping well-trained rat dogs on farms and about city warehouses.

By keeping provisions which rats and mice will attack, in rat proof and mouse proof containers.

By destroying rats and mice systematically by poisoning, trapping, and by organized systematic hunts.

By arousing public opinion to the realization of the importance of exterminating rats and mice.

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